NCF Recommendation on Credit Reforms and Suicide Census

301. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission of Farmers has called for credit reforms in the farming sector to prevent farmers from committing suicides;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has called for proper census of suicides of farmers in the country so as to understand the situation better for better working;

(c) what are the recommendations made by the Commission;

(d) whether Government have examined those recommendations; and

(e) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Commission on Farmers in its Second Interim Report submitted to the Government recently has recommended the following credit related measures:

(i) Initiate a Paradigm shift from Micro-finance to Livelihood Finance;

(ii) Debt survey to take into account newer forms of credit and indebtedness and newer forms of bondage;

(iii) Decide on cut-off for Debt waiver in consultation with Panchayats and farmers' representatives in the distress hotspot areas; and

(iv) Examine revival of lapsed insurance policies

In this Report, the Commission has also recommended the need for conducting census of suicides to have a proper understanding, assessment of reasons and count of suicides.

(d) and (e) The consultation process has already begun for firming up the Government's decision in the matter.